



## MEDIA ALERT/TIP SHEET

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM

[HTTP://WWW.GODOMINICANREPUBLIC.COM/](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/)

CHRISTINA LEVIN, RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS

(212) 805-3029 / [CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM](mailto:CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM)

---

This material is distributed by Rubenstein Public Relations on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, DC.

### **COMMENT FOR DR. OZ**

"We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of Leyla Ann Cox.

"A comprehensive autopsy was completed and confirmed that Ms. Cox passed of natural causes.

"Specific findings will not be commented on out of respect for Ms. Cox and her family.

"The safety and well-being of travelers remains our utmost priority. We recently introduced a number of new initiatives and enhanced measures, including reinforcing the availability of 911 emergency response services within each guest room and at the time of check-in, establishing a multilingual emergency tourist center to seamlessly connect visitors and their families with government agencies, as well as doubling hotel inspections.

"We will continue to introduce new safety initiatives as part of the Integral Tourism Security Review ordered by our President by Decree in January."

###



## MEDIA ALERT/TIP SHEET

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MINISTRY OF TOURISM

[HTTP://WWW.GODOMINICANREPUBLIC.COM/](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/)

CHRISTINA LEVIN, RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS

(212) 805-3029 / [CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM](mailto:CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM)

---

This material is distributed by Rubenstein Public Relations on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, DC.

### COMMENT FOR DR. PHIL SHOW

"We are not in a position to comment on ongoing litigation or decisions made by private enterprise.

"The Dominican Republic has introduced a number of new initiatives and strengthened measures to further support the experience of the travelling public.

"They include doubling hotel inspections, reinforcing the availability of 911 emergency response services within each guest room and at the time of check-in, and establishing a multilingual emergency tourist center to seamlessly connect visitors and their families with government agencies, as needed.

"We will continue to introduce new safety initiatives as part of the Integral Tourism Security Review ordered by our President by Decree in January."

"The Dominican Republic remains wholeheartedly committed to safeguarding the well-being of all travelers."

###

RPR MEDIA MEMO FOR DOJ -  
The Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism

**Completed Interviews Facilitated by RPR Based on Circulated Releases**

9/27/19 FOX News, Delta Flight Cancellations  
7/19/19 NYT Insider, "Storm as early as next report", *honduras.dominicans en Nueva York*  
7/19/19 FOX Business, "Venezia & Co."  
7/19/19 Reuters TV  
7/22/19 BBC, "World News America"  
7/19/19 CNN, Dominican authorities welcome US senator's call for ATF and CDC to investigate tourist deaths  
7/19/19 CNN, Dominican authorities announce new safety measures to ease tourist fears  
7/19/19 New York Daily News, Dominican Republic is rolling out new safety measures to ease public worry after deaths of American tourists  
7/19/19 FOX News, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures to ease tourist deaths  
7/20/19 Channel 7, Dominican Republic Official Channels New Safety Measures

**Completed Interviews Facilitated by RPR That Did Not Result in Placements / Are Not Yet Published:**

9/27/19 NBC News, interview with Pablo Espinal on Adhira case  
7/19/19 New York Times, interview with Pablo Espinal and Eduardo Hernandez

**Published Placements That Ran From RPR Press Releases and/or Interviews:**

7/19/19 NYT Insider  
7/19/19 FOX Business, "Venezia & Co."  
7/19/19 Reuters TV  
7/22/19 BBC, "World News America"  
7/19/19 New York Post, Dominican Republic invites ATF to help with tourist death probe in letter to Chuck Schumer  
7/19/19 Channel 7, NY Congressman Pushes Dominican Tourism Despite Recent Focus on American Deaths  
7/19/19 HuffPost UK, President Bill Clinton in the Dominican Republic  
7/19/19 ABC 7, 11th American to die in Dominican Republic died of 'natural causes', government says  
7/19/19 ABC Action News - WPTX Tampa Bay, Dominican Republic announces new safety regulations amid series of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 ABC News, 11th American to die in Dominican Republic died of 'natural causes', news clearing a mystery of tourist  
7/19/19 ABC Atlanta News Now, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 AOL, US officials claim Georgia man who allegedly stabbed himself died of 'natural causes'  
7/19/19 Boston 25 News, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 CBS 47FOX 30 Action News Jan, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 Channel 1000, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures to ease tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Channel 4000, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 CNN, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 Connecticut Today, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Daily Mail, Twitter Bill Clinton shares off concern and vacations in the Dominican Republic, golfing and posing with locals  
7/19/19 FOX 6 New, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 MSNBC TV, 11th American to die in Dominican Republic died of 'natural causes', government says  
7/19/19 MSNBC, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NBCY, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NBCR, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NBCN, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NBCU 7, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 MTV, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NCAM News, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NFDQ, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 NYGZ, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 OAN, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 OSLY, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 OTMA, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Local News 4, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 MSNBC, Dominican Republic Officials Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 New York Daily News, Dominican Republic is rolling out new safety measures to ease public worry after deaths of American tourists  
7/19/19 New York Daily News, Dominican tourism minister: American died of 'natural causes'  
7/19/19 New York Post, Dominican Republic releases new safety measures after tourist measures  
7/19/19 New York Post, Bill Clinton visits Dominican Republic and spots of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 News 4 Jan, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 News 600, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Sunlight News Jan, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 Travel Weekly, Dominican Republic reveals tourist safety initiatives  
7/19/19 USA Today, Dominican Republic to enhance food and drink inspections after tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WHFZ, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WHG, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WISN-TV, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WFTS 11, Dominican authorities announce new safety measures to ease fears after tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WFTS 3, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 WFLD, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 WWSB, Dominican Authorities Announce New Safety Measures To Ease Tourist Fears  
7/19/19 WWSB-TV 3, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Yahoo News, Dominican Republic to enhance food and drink inspections after tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Yik 10 News, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 FOX Business, Dominican Republic announces new safety measures for tourists  
7/19/19 FOX Business, Puerto Rico confirms as Dominican Republic announces new safety measures  
7/19/19 FOX News, Former President Bill Clinton vacations in Dominican Republic as country tries to move past spate of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Morning with Maria, Dominican Republic announces new safety measures for tourists  
7/19/19 NPR, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/19/19 Newsweek, Dominican Republic Announces New Safety Measures After 10 American Deaths, Alleged Tourist Reeling  
7/19/19 Travel Market Report, Dominican Republic Announces New Safety Measures  
7/19/19 Yahoo Finance, Dominican Republic announces new safety measures for tourists  
7/19/19 FOX News, Dominican Republic rolls out new safety measures in wake of tourist deaths  
7/20/19 Channel 7, Dominican Republic Official Channels New Safety Measures  
7/20/19 Travel Weekly, The Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism will enforce new safety measures to calm tourist concerns after 10 mysterious deaths







## PRESS RELEASE

MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
[HTTP://WWW.GODOMINICANREPUBLIC.COM/](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/)

CHRISTINA LEVIN, RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(212) 805-3029 / [CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM](mailto:CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM)

ANNIE HOLSCHUH, BVK PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(414) 247-2140 / [ANNIE.HOLSCHUH@BVK.COM](mailto:ANNIE.HOLSCHUH@BVK.COM)

---

This material is distributed by Rubenstein Public Relations on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, DC.

### **PUNTA CANA MEDICAL CENTER BECOMES THE COUNTRY'S FIRST HOSPITAL TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL GOLD ACCREDITATION**

Shauna Hemingway, Canadian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, visited the world-class facility to bestow the Qmentum International accreditation

**SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** – September 3, 2019 – Minister of Tourism Francisco Javier García today congratulated the Punta Cana Medical Center on becoming the first hospital in the Dominican Republic to receive international GOLD Accreditation by Qmentum International-Accreditation Canada. The prestigious designation is the result of a rigorous two-year evaluation of ongoing process development and health service management governed by the strictest standards of excellence in patient care and safety.

Canadian Ambassador to the Dominican Republic Shauna Hemingway presented the certificate of accreditation.

During her visit, Ambassador Hemingway commented, "There is no greater priority for Canada in the Dominican Republic than the welfare of the hundreds of thousands of our citizens who visit the country every year. I am very happy that the Canadian health system, our rules, and practices have served in the constant search for high-quality service from Punta Cana Medical Center, both for the benefit of Canadian visitors and for Dominican residents and citizens."

"We applaud this achievement and the Punta Cana Medical Center's dedication to patient care," said Minister García.

The Minister further added, "The engagement of third-party partners and the recognition of leading programs such as Qmentum International-Accreditation Canada underscores our sustained commitment to public well-being and safety."

All members of the health center, including its doctors, nurses, administrative and operational staff, as well as patients, their families and community members were included in the comprehensive review.

Accreditation Canada, an institution endorsed by the International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQUA), has positively influenced more than 1,100 health care and social services organizations on five continents.

Punta Cana Medical Center is owned and operated by Rescue Group, the leading national private health network in the Dominican Republic. Rescue Group maintains a commitment to extend the highest patient care standards across Punta Cana Medical Center, Bournigal Medical Center in Puerto Plata, Canela Clinic in La Romana, affiliated referral hospitals, Urgent Care facilities, as well as in-home service, and 17 emergency hotel medical centers.

All facilities and services provided by Rescue Group are in strict compliance with local Ministry of Public Health regulations as further enforced by the Ministry of Tourism. Additionally, Bournigal Medical Center in Puerto Plata is in the final phases of the evaluation process towards the same level of international accreditation.

The Punta Cana Medical Center's GOLD accreditation follows the Ministry's recent introduction of meaningful programs and increased measures to strengthen the confidence of the travelling public. Included within the pro-active measures is the doubling of inspection capacities and significantly increased compliance standards in tourist destinations.

The heightened inspections and oversight will extend to the medical offices within the hotel facilities and review of the professional qualifications of the doctors, resident doctors, nurses, and assistants.

Reinforced mandates will also require that emergency information and the availability of 911 is clearly posted in every guest room. Additionally, hotel staff will be required to review the information with each guest at the time of check-in to further emphasize access to emergency services and support.

#### ABOUT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north and the Caribbean Sea on the south, the country features nearly 1,000 miles of coastline. The Dominican Republic welcomed more than 40 million tourists in the last seven years, and is statistically among the safest countries in the Caribbean. In 2018, hotel, bar and restaurant activity represented 7.6 percent of the gross domestic product in terms of added value, becoming one of the most dynamic sectors of the Dominican economy with an average growth of 7 percent in the last four years. Visit Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism's official website at: <http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/>.

###





## PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF TOURISM OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
[HTTP://WWW.GODOMINICANREPUBLIC.COM/](http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/)

CHRISTINA LEVIN, RUBENSTEIN PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(212) 805-3029 / [CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM](mailto:CLEVIN@RUBENSTEINPR.COM)

ANNIE HOLSCHUH, BVK PUBLIC RELATIONS  
(414) 247-2140 / [ANNIE.HOLSCHUH@BVK.COM](mailto:ANNIE.HOLSCHUH@BVK.COM)

---

*This material is distributed by Rubenstein Public Relations on behalf of the Ministry of Tourism and the Consulate General of the Dominican Republic in New York. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, DC.*

### **Statement on Behalf of the Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism Regarding Yesterday's Announcement on the Temporary Closure of The Majestic Elegance in Punta Cana**

"We are not in a position to comment on a decision made by private enterprise. The Dominican Republic has introduced a number of new initiatives and strengthened measures to further support the experience of the travelling public. They include the following: doubling hotel inspections; increasing compliance with food and beverage protocols; reinforcing the availability of 911 emergency response services within each guest room and at the time of check-in; and establishing a multilingual emergency tourist center to seamlessly connect visitors and their families with government agencies, as needed."

###